

PRESS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF KERN

TERRY McNALLY, CEO
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NEW CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER APPOINTED

The Superior Court of California, County of Kern, has announced the appointment of Mr. John Roberts as Chief Probation Officer for the County of Kern effective June 26, 2004.

Mr. Roberts, a 27-year veteran of the Probation Department, is currently the Assistant Chief Probation Officer. He started his Probation career in 1977 as a Group Supervisor in Juvenile Hall. He has had numerous other assignments including Deputy Probation Officer, Probation Supervisor, Assistant Institution Director and Division Director where he was responsible for the implementation of innovative programs including the youthful offender treatment program.

"Mr. Roberts will be a great successor to Mr. Rhoades, the current Chief, who is retiring," according to Judge Richard J. Oberholzer, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court in Kern County. "His leadership and administrative skills combined with years of experience with governmental, juvenile and justice agencies will ensure a smooth and effective transition in these difficult budget times. Mr. Roberts has not only served with the County Probation Department, but has been active in youth activities in our community for a number of years. The judges are pleased that he has accepted our offer to him to serve as Chief Probation Officer"

Mr. Roberts is a graduate of California State University, Bakersfield with a BA in Criminal Justice. He is also a graduate of Bakersfield College and Garces Memorial High School. The Chief Probation Officer is appointed by the Superior Court pursuant to

Welfare and Institutions Code 270 upon recommendation by the local Juvenile Justice Commission. The search for a new Chief Probation Officer was started in early 2004 with the announcement by Mr. Larry Rhoades of his pending retirement upon the completion of the new Crossroads Juvenile Treatment Facility due to open on June 17.

For further information, you may contact Terry McNally, Court Executive Officer, at (661) 868-4934.